

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06
EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 CIEP-01 CEA-01 /105 W
----- 026902 /42

R 161135Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 470
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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FODAG

FROM ROBERT SKIFF

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OCON, ESCAP
SUBJ: ESCAP: INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOKYO, FEBRUARY 1-7, 1977

REF: STATE 303095

1. ON BASIS OF CURRENT SITUATION, THE ASSUMPTIONS REFLECTED IN PARAGRAPH 1 AND 2 (REFTEL) ARE APPROPRIATE. IN THEORY, THE DIVISION OF EFFORT BETWEEN ESCAP AND FAO SHOULD BE CLEAR-CUT. FAO WOULD FOCUS ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL SIDE WHILE ESCAP WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND INTER-DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS OF THE ESCAP AREA. PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE SUBJECT MEETING REFUTES THEORY, THUS FAR.

2. EXPECT TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION FOLLOWING ACPR MEETING DECEMBER 23. BELIEVE SECRETARIAT HOPES TOKYO EXPERT GROUP MEETING
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COULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE NEW ESCAP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULED TO MEET DURING 1977. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEW COMMITTEE ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM SEVERAL ESCAP PERMREPS PRESENT IN

TEHRAN INDICATES THEY WILL ATTEND IN SUPPORT OF DIVISION CHIEF
LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM THEIR APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT.

4. THE JAPANESE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE HAS BEEN DEFERRED SINCE FEBRUARY 1976 OWING TO OBJECTION FROM VARIOUS DC'S IN THE AREA (NOTABLY PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA). THEY BELIEVE AN INSTITUTE OF THIS NATURE SHOULD BE LOCATED IN SOUTH OR SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THAT THE DISTANCE AND EXPENSE INVOLVED IN A JAPAN VENUE MAKE THE PROPOSAL IMPRACTICAL. THE OUTCOME IS IN DOUBT.

5. THE NETHERLANDS, JAPANESE AND INDONESIAN PERMREPS IN TEHRAN ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED OVER THE LACK OF COOPERATION EVIDENT BETWEEN ESCAP AND FAO AND THE EFFECT ON THE TOKYO MEETING. WE WILL CONCENTRATE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE CLARIFICATION UPON RETURN TO BANGKOK.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN12436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0245
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761235/aaaabegc.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 303095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESCAP: INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOKYO, FEBRUARY 1-7, 1977
TAGS: OCON, IR, ESCAP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006